



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Dublin 2

Ms Sandra Mallon
The Irish Daily Mail
3rd Floor, Embassy House
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

14 February 2014

Our ref: FOI/REQ/14/009

Dear Ms Mallon

I refer to your recent application under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and 2003 for access to certain records held by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

I am the deciding officer in this case. I have made a final decision to refuse your request.

In December 2013, President Higgins attended the State Memorial Service and Lying in State ceremonies for former President Nelson Mandela in South Africa. This was a visit by President Higgins in an official capacity and therefore all information about it relates to the office of the President. Section 46 (d) of the Freedom of Information Act states that the Act does not apply to a record relating to the President.

Right of Appeal

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2. A fee applies for an appeal, with the exception of an appeal against the imposition of a fee; the level of this fee has been set at €75. Payment should be made by way of bank draft, money order, postal order or personal cheque made payable to the Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie O'Brien". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julie O'Brien

FOI Officer